

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 1997-239-C - ORDER NO. 2005-143
MARCH 29, 2005

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an)	ORDER GRANTING
Intrastate Universal Service Fund)	ORS REQUEST
)	
)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) to solicit bids for an independent third party to audit the Universal Service Fund (USF) and for a third party consultant to compile GAAP basis financial statements.

In support of its request, ORS filed a document containing the scope of work for two phases of the audit. Because no financial statements have previously been prepared, the first phase entails hiring a consulting firm to compile GAAP basis financial statements in order for an audit to be conducted. ORS contemplates procuring this service as an emergency procurement under the Consolidated Procurement Code. The second phase of the project comprises the actual audit.

ORS states that it would like to begin an RFP process immediately so that the agency will be in a position to award the audit contract as soon as the GAAP financial statements are complete. According to ORS, both phases combined should not exceed \$200,000.

We have examined the request, and hold that it should be granted. Accordingly, we make the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) requests the ability to solicit bids for an independent third party to audit the Universal Service Fund (USF) and for a third party consultant to compile GAAP basis financial statements.
2. The ORS has furnished a document containing the scope of work for two phases of the audit.
3. ORS desires to begin the RFP process immediately so that the agency will be in a position to award the audit contract as soon as the GAAP financial statements are complete.
4. The request of ORS should be granted.

ORDER

The request of ORS to solicit bids for an independent third party to audit the USF and for a third party consultant to compile GAAP basis financial statements is granted.

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ORS should keep the Commission apprised of its progress in awarding bids. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/
Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice-Chairman

(SEAL)